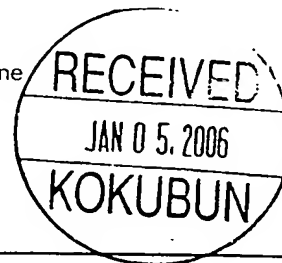


From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCTINFORMATION CONCERNING ELECTED
OFFICES NOTIFIED OF THEIR ELECTION

(PCT Article 31(7) and Rule 61.3)

To:

KOKUBUN, Takayoshi
Ikebukuro TG Homest Building
5th Floor
17-8 Higashi-Ikebukuro 1-chome
Toshima-ku
Tokyo 1700013
JAPON

Date of mailing (day/month/year)

22 December 2005 (22.12.2005)

Applicant's or agent's file reference

F1348P-WO

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/019405

International filing date (day/month/year)

24 December 2004 (24.12.2004)

Priority date (day/month/year)

24 December 2003 (24.12.2003)

Applicant

NIPPON STEEL CORPORATION et al

1. The applicant is hereby informed that the International Bureau has, according to Article 31(7), notified each of the following Offices of its election:

EP: AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR

National: BG, CA, CN, CZ, DE, JP, KP, KR, MN, NO, PL, RO, RU, SK, SM, US

2. The following Offices have waived the requirement for the notification of their election; the notification will be sent to them by the International Bureau only upon their request:

AP: BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW

EA: AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM

OA: BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG

National: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CH, CO, CR, CU, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, KE, KG, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PT, SC, SD, SE, SG, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW

3. Since the election(s) was (were) made after the expiration of 19 months from the priority date, the applicant is reminded that he must, subject to the following paragraph, enter the national phase within 20 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) before some of the designated Offices in respect of which Article 22(1), as modified with effect of 1 April 2002, does not apply, by paying the national fee(s) and furnishing, if prescribed, a translation of the international application.

However, in respect of most other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) may nevertheless apply. See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters, the *PCT Newsletter* and the WIPO Internet site, updated regularly.

The International Bureau of WIPO

34, chemin des Colombettes

1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Authorized officer

Yoshiko Kuwahara

Facsimile No. +41 22 740 14 35

Facsimile No. +41 22 338 90 90